

XVII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.**Alexander on Boyd Alexander's Last Journey.*

[Boyd Alexander's Last Journey. With a Memoir, by Herbert Alexander. 296 pp. London (Edward Arnold), 1912.]

We are all glad to be able to read the journal kept by our friend and colleague, the late Boyd Alexander, during his last memorable expedition. After examining the islands in the Gulf of Guinea, and making complete collections of their birds, he took a long turn northwards to the Lake Chad district, intending to make his way home by the dangerous route through Wadai, on the confines of which he lost his life.

The part of his Diary in the present volume relates to his journey through the German Colony of Cameroon, where he met with a most friendly reception, but he likewise received efficient assistance from the French officers in the Chad district, and it was by their assistance, we believe, that his last collections and notes were recovered and brought home. No better testimonial to his memory and fame could have been made than the publication of the diary of his last journey, which is now before us. It is prefaced by an account of his childhood, education, and early days, and, besides other illustrations, contains an excellent likeness of our much lamented friend.

For further details on Boyd Alexander's life and work Mr. Ogilvie-Grant's excellent article in 'The Ibis' for 1910 (p. 716) should be consulted.

Alston on the Highlands of Scotland.

[Wild Life in the West Highlands. By Charles Henry Alston. With illustrations by A. Scott Rankin. xii + 272 pp., 9 pls. Glasgow (Maclehose), 1912. 8vo. Price 6s.]

Mr. Alston has reprinted a series of essays on natural history subjects, most of which originally appeared in the 'Scotsman.' One of these deals with the White-tailed Eagle, which is chiefly made up from quotations from Gray and

Harvie Brown and other writers, and there does not appear to be very much first-hand observation either in this or any of the other chapters, but they are pleasantly written and may serve their purpose of interesting some whose attention would not be otherwise drawn to such studies.

Bent on a new Crossbill.

[A new Subspecies of Crossbill from Newfoundland. By A. C. Bent. *Smiths. Misc. Coll.* vol. xl. No. 15, 1912, pp. 1-3.]

Scotland has a Crossbill of its own, and why should not Newfoundland also have a special representative of this widely spread form? Mr. Bent says that it has, and bases his *Lorina perena* on eighteen specimens, besides which there are similar examples in several of the principal American Museums. It is a subspecies of *L. curvirostra*.

Blaauw's Excursion to South America.

[Across South America to Tierra del Fuego and back through the Smith Channel. By F. E. Blaauw. *Notes Leyd. Mus.* vol. xxxv. 1912, pp. 1-74, 2 plates.]

Our friend Mr. F. E. Blaauw has made a successful expedition to Argentina, and thence over the Andes by the new Transandean Railway to Chiti, Patagonia, and Tierra del Fuego. His experiences, as related in his Journal, will be read with great interest, and no doubt induce others to follow his lead. The route is easy now-a-days, and the attractions of Nature on it are great and varied. But those that expect good hotels and first-rate accommodation will, we fear, be disappointed.

Mr. Blaauw started from Amsterdam on the 1st of February, 1911, and was back in Holland on May 29th, showing how much an active traveller can do in four months. Landing at Buenos Ayres he crossed by the newly completed railway to the Pacific coast, and thence travelled by steamer and railway to Punta Arenas and Tierra del Fuego. On the Pacific side several very interesting excursions were made. Every page of Mr. Blaauw's Journal contains field-notes on animals and plants—especially such as relate to Birds. It is

a pity that he did not take a taxidermist with him, but then he would not have "got through" so quickly. Moreover, the Avifauna of this end of South America is pretty well known. Crawshay's 'Birds of Tierra del Fuego' is, we believe, not yet out of print, and James's 'New List of Chilian Birds' is not obsolete. Besides, Mr. Blaauw is an excellent observer, and has an unrivalled knowledge of the fine Ducks and other water-fowl of this part of the world, based especially on specimens living in his own Menagerie. We believe that those species to which he has added the scientific names may be considered to have been correctly determined. As regards the controversy whether there is more than one species of Steamer-Duck in Antarctic America, Mr. Blaauw is of opinion that there are two distinct forms, one of which, the typical *Tachyeres cinereus*, is a big and heavy bird and is quite unable to fly; it is absolutely confined to the sea, and was seen by Mr. Blaauw in large numbers in Smith Channel. The other species, which, if distinct, should be called *Tachyeres patachonicus* King, was repeatedly seen by Mr. Blaauw flying high overhead and was common in Tierra del Fuego, especially on the freshwater lakes inland. In recent years Salvadori (in the 'Catalogue of Birds') and most other authors have been of opinion that there was only one species of Steamer-Duck, but Capt. Abbott, who wrote on the birds of the Falkland Islands ('Ibis,' 1861, pp. 161-162), was, like Mr. Blaauw, quite convinced that there were two species, a flying and a flightless one, and that both occurred in the Falkland Islands.

Brabourne and Chubb on the Birds of South America.

[The Birds of South America. By Lord Brabourne, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., and Charles Chubb, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. (Zoological Department, British Museum). Vol. i. List, pp. xx+504. London (Porter), 1912. L. 8vo.]

The authors of the important work of which the first volume is now before us have set themselves to a long and heavy task, which, however, we trust they will bring to a satisfactory conclusion. Mr. Charles Chubb, who is well known to all Ornithologists that visit the Bird-room at

South Kensington, has an extensive knowledge of South-American birds; while Lord Brabourne has already visited South America for collecting-purposes, and is now, we believe, in Peru, endeavouring to improve his personal knowledge of its attractive Avifauna.

The authors have thought it expedient to commence their labours by a nominal list of the species of birds which they propose to treat of, and in some cases this is, no doubt, a very good plan. But as regards South-American birds the number of species is so large, and many of the districts embraced in its area are so little explored, that a large number of additions and alterations will be required in "the second edition," as we may venture to call it, which may prove to be rather confusing. Besides, the army of "splitters" is daily increasing, and we have no doubt that large additions will be made to the 'List of South American Birds' before the authors have finished their work.

The geographical limits recognized in this List do not quite coincide with those of the Neotropical Region, as Central America, the Antilles, and the Galapagos, all of which certainly belong to the Neotropical Region, are not included. It is true that the West India Islands have been well worked by our friends in the United States, and that the birds of the Galapagos deserve a separate treatment. But we think it would have been better to have included Central America, as it has many representatives of what are strictly South-American types (*Cotinga*, *Chasmorhynchus*, &c.). But Central America has been fully treated in Godman's splendid 'Biologia Centrali-Americana' and is comprehended in Mr. Ridgway's great work which is still unfinished, and perhaps hardly requires another investigation at present.

The systematic arrangement and nomenclature of the present work are those of Sharpe's 'Hand-list' or nearly so. We note, with pleasure, that the authors have not, so far, found it necessary to employ "trinomials," although they threaten to do so in the complete work. We trust, however,

that they will be able to avoid this pit-fall, or, at any rate, will not give the subspecies the same rank as the species.

Finally, we may express our satisfaction at the quotations in this work, and the almost complete absence of printer's and Editor's errors. The paper and print are also excellent.

Four thousand five hundred and sixty-one species are listed in the 'Birds of South America,' and are referred to eight hundred and seventy-four genera.

Bryant on Birds and Grasshoppers.

[Birds in relation to a Grasshopper Outbreak in California. By H. C. Bryant. Univ. Cal. Publ., Zool. xi. 1912, pp. 1-20.]

In this country, happily, we do not suffer much from the ravages of such insects as locusts and grasshoppers, but, as is well known, in many other parts of the world the destruction of growing crops by insects is most serious. Any means that can be found for lessening the plague of insects are therefore most welcome; and it has been discovered that one of the most successful remedies is supplied by Nature in the form of insect-eating birds, some of which at certain seasons appear to subsist entirely on grasshoppers.

The essay now before us contains full particulars on this subject, and contains the names of the birds that are chiefly concerned in this excellent work, as proved by an examination of their stomachs. The American "Meadow-Lark" (*Sturnella*) is stated to live almost entirely on grasshoppers where they are abundant, and the little Burrowing Owl is mentioned as a most efficient destroyer of these noxious insects.

Hellmayr on Two new Birds from the Timor Group.

[Descriptions of Two new Birds from the Timor Group. By C. E. Hellmayr. Nov. Zool. xix. 1912, pp. 210-211.]

The new forms are named *Dicaeum hanieli* and *Neopsittacus iris wetterensis*. The first-named was discovered by Mr. C. B. Haniel, the second by Mr. H. Kühn.

Horsbrugh on South African Game-birds.

[The Game-birds and Water-fowl of South Africa. By Major Boyd Horsbrugh, with Coloured Plates by Sergeant C. G. Davies. xii + 160 pp., 65 pls. London (Witherby), 1912. 4to.]

This work, now completed, was issued in four parts, the first of which has already been noticed ('Ibis,' 1912, p. 670). The three remaining parts deal with Francolins, Quails, Guinea-fowls, Sand-grouse, Pigeons, and Ducks, and the last plate illustrates the Hadadah Ibis. It is a little difficult to understand on what principle this last bird and some others were selected to the exclusion of such forms as the Bald Ibis, the Cranes, and Flamingos, but we may conclude that only those species are noticed which ordinarily come in the way of the sportsman for whom the book is obviously designed. The coloured figures are accurately drawn and coloured, though perhaps in some cases the attitudes are a little stiff, but they reflect great credit on Sergeant Davies, who has in most cases watched the originals in their native haunts. The letterpress is short and to the point, and is largely founded on the information in Selater & Stark's 'Fauna of South Africa,' supplemented by field-notes by the author and the artist; the latter's experiences having been in Pondoland and East Griqualand, while those of Major Horsbrugh himself were chiefly in the Orange Free State and Transvaal. The work will be most useful to all sportsmen and naturalists living in South Africa.

Howard on British Warblers.

[The British Warblers: a History with Problems of their Lives. By H. Eliot Howard. Pt. 7; 74 pp., 3 col., 5 plain pls. & 2 maps. London (Porter), 1912. 8vo.]

In this part of his work Mr. Howard gives us a short account of the Great Reed- and Aquatic Warblers and a very full life-history of the Marsh-Warbler. The two former call for no special comment, but the last is particularly interesting to those who study this group of birds, both on account of its likeness to the Reed-Warbler,

with which not so very long ago it was constantly confounded, and also on account of the difference in its note and habits. As usual, the author devotes much space to the two questions of the birds' special "territories" and their emotional behaviour—here particularly to the latter. He institutes a close comparison between the Marsh- and the Reed-Warbler, showing that the latter is much more emotional, of a much more active habit, and an exceptionally fine mimic. We ought to be grateful to Mr. Howard for giving us such an insight into the ways of a species still none too well understood, coupled with admirable pictures of the male and female in various attitudes by Mr. Grönvold, figures of the nest in different positions, and maps to show the approximate dates of arrival as compared with that of the Reed-Warbler. Equally good coloured plates are given of the Garden-Warbler, Marsh-Warbler, and Subalpine Warbler—in the first case accompanied by the young.

Ingram on the Birds of Yunnan.

[The Birds of Yunnan. By Collingwood Ingram. Nov. Zool. xix. 1912, pp. 269-310.]

Yunnan is one of the largest and least-known provinces of the Chinese Empire, and, until recently, was quite unsafe for Europeans. But one of Mr. Alan Owston's Japanese collectors has managed to make a collection of birds there, which, after passing through Mr. Ingram's hands, came to the Tring Museum, and forms the basis of this paper.

Mr. Ingram has carefully studied the accounts of all the previous collections made in Yunnan by Anderson, Wingate (see 'Ibis,' 1900, p. 573), Oustalet, and others, and has compiled a complete list of the species recorded by previous authorities. It is lengthy, containing the names of 352 species, but it will have to be considerably increased, we expect, when the country has been more thoroughly worked out.

One new subspecies is named *Eudynamis orientalis harterti*.

Van Kempen on the Birds of the North of France.

[Contribution à l'étude des oiseaux du Nord de la France. Par Ch. van Kempen. Bull. Soc. Linn. du Nord de la France, Amiens, 1912, pp. 1-62.]

This is merely a list of specimens of birds in the collection of the author obtained in the three departments of Somme, Nord, and Pas de Calais. Mr. van Kempen's collections are large and contain over 20,000 examples, of which 8,720 are European.

Menzbier's Zoo-geographical Atlas.

[Zoo-geographischer Atlas, 30 Bildertafeln, die die Tierbevölkerung des Festlandes der Weltkugel nach den zoologischen Regionen illustrieren, samt dem erklärenden Texte und einer Karte der zoologischen Regionen. Die Tafeln sind unter Leitung von Prof. Menzbier vom Künstler W. A. Watagin angeführt. Pp. 1-31, 30 pls. Moskau (Sabaschnikoff), 1912. Folio.]

This work by our esteemed Foreign Member, Prof. Dr. Michael Menzbier of Moscow, consists of a portfolio of thirty coloured plates illustrating the mammalian and avian faunas of the different zoo-geographical regions and sub-regions of the world. Accompanying this is a text in parallel Russian and German columns in explanation of the plates. The regions adopted are those of Selater and Wallace, and are shown on a map of the world printed with the text. The work, Prof. Menzbier informs us, was originally planned for lectures on geographical distribution to the students of the University of Moscow, and is now published in the hope that it may be of use to other schools and colleges.

Mitchell on the Early Life of Birds.

[The Childhood of Animals. By P. Chalmers Mitchell, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S. With coloured plates by E. Yarrow Jones, M.A., and drawings by R. B. Brook-Greaves. xiv + 270 pp., 12 plates. London (Heinemann), 1912. 8vo. Price 10s.]

During Christmas time of 1911-12 Dr. Chalmers Mitchell was called upon to deliver the usual course of lectures "adapted to a juvenile auditory" at the Royal Institution.

These he has expanded and enlarged into the volume now before us, in which he attempts to bring together observations old and new on that period of the life-history of animals between birth and maturity. Only a small proportion of the work deals directly with birds, but there are chapters on the duration of youth, the colours and patterns, and brood-care in birds, all of which may be read with profit by ornithologists, though no very startling new hypotheses are propounded.

A word must be said for the coloured illustrations, which certainly form a remarkable departure from the usual style. They were originally painted by Mr. Yarrow Jones on Japanese silk, and have been reproduced with great skill. Although in no sense would they be useful in a systematic treatise, they have a character and individuality which impresses itself at once on our imagination, and may perhaps reveal characteristics not easily described in words or diagrams.

Rothschild and Hartert on Birds from New Guinea.

[List of a Collection of Birds made by Mr. Albert Meek on the Kumusi River, North-eastern British New Guinea. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild and Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. xix. 1912, pp. 187-206.

List of Birds collected by Mr. A. S. Meek at Haidana, Collingwood Bay, in North-eastern British New Guinea. Nov. Zool. xix. 1912, pp. 207-209.]

In the first paper the authors discuss a collection of birds made by Mr. A. Meek on the Kumusi River—which lies at the extreme north-eastern corner of New Guinea, close to the German boundary—in 1907. Examples of 119 species were obtained, of which *Pitta mackloti oblita*, *Machari-rhynchus flaviventer novus*, *Coracina papuensis meekiana*, *Ptilotis analoga vicina*, and *Pinarolestes megarhynchus superfluus* are characterized as new subspecies.

The second paper contains another list of birds made by the same collector at Collingwood, being also on the north-eastern coast of New Guinea but further to the east, about halfway between the German frontier and the eastern

extremity of the island. Examples of thirty-five species were obtained, but none of them are characterized as new.

Salvadori on Birds from the Congo.

[Secondo contributo all' ornitologia del Congo per T. Salvadori. Ann. Museo Civ. Stor. Nat. Genova, xlv. 1912, pp. 444-456.]

This paper may be considered as supplemental to a similar one previously published by the same author (see Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, xlv. pp. 320-326). It contains an account of two more small collections made in Congoland by M. Ribotti. The specimens are 103 in number, which are referred to 80 species. In the former collection some rare species were represented; in the present series most of the species are well known, but deserve to be recorded as occurring within the limits of the Belgian Congo.

As yet the birds of the vast area of Congoland seem to be very imperfectly known. We are told there is a large series of them in the new Museum of the Congo at Tervueren, near Brussels, but that no ornithologist can be found there to undertake the study of them.

Sarudny and Härms on Persian Birds.

[Bemerkungen über einige Vögel Persiens. Von N. Sarudny und M. Härms. Journ. f. Ornith. 1912, pp. 592-619.]

This somewhat lengthy paper deals with three species only, obtained and observed by the authors in 1900-1 in eastern Persia and Baluchistan, viz., *Passer yatii*, *Cinnuyris brevirostris*, and *Pycnonotus leucotis*. The first-named is a very rare bird which had only been once previously obtained, but our authors secured at least 186 examples, and give a detailed account of its range, habits, nests, and eggs. The nests are most remarkable, with tubular openings ten to fourteen inches long, leading upwards or sideways, quite unlike those of the other species of the genus. Six varieties of these nests are figured. They were found in large numbers in the tamarisks about the delta of the river Helmund in Seistan.

Stresemann on Birds from the Indo-Australian Region.

[Ornithologische Miscellen aus dem Indo-Australischen Gebiet. Von Erwin Stresemann. Nov. Zool, xix. 1912, pp. 311-351.]

This is a series of small monographs relating to various birds and groups of birds of the Indo-Australian Region, revised principally from specimens in the famous museum at Tring. It forms a preliminary account of the collections made by the author during the Second Freiburg Moluccan expedition (see p. 338).

The subspecies treated are of the following genera and their allies:—*Lamprocorax*, *Gracula*, *Anthus*, *Munia*, *Ploceus*, *Pratincola*, certain groups of Muscicapidæ, *Dendrobiastes*, *Cacomantis*, *Centropus*, *Eos*, *Criniger*, *Stigmatops*, *Zosterops*, and *Collocalia*.

The writer is obviously well acquainted with his subject, and gives us much useful information as to the ranges of the birds and their position in the system.

The following names are now published for the first time;—

Anthus richardi albidus, *Munia punctulata blasii*, *Pratincola caprata albonotata*, *Phylloscopus trivirgatus parvirostris*, *Dendrobiastes hyperythra alifurus*, *Centropus bengalensis sarasinorum*, *Eos bornea rothschildi*, *Criniger affinis harterti*, *Stigmatops indistincta nupta*, *S. argentauris patasiwa*, *Zosterops palpebrosa harterti*, *Z. p. foghaensis*, *Collocalia linchi oberholseri*, *C. francica assimilis*, and *C. f. reichenowi*.

Thienemann on the Migration of the Woodcock.

[Untersuchungen über den Zug der Waldschneppe (*Scolopax rusticola*) im Herbst 1909 und 1910 in den Provinzen Ostpreussen, Westpreussen, und Posen. Journ. f. Ornith. 1912, pp. 175-243, Taf. 6.]

Mr. Thienemann, who is the director of the Bird Observatory at Rossitten in East Prussia, has amassed a very large number of reports on the autumnal migration of the Woodcock in the eastern portion of Prussia. These are arranged

and presented in the paper here quoted. As is well known, the Woodcock migrates at night in large parties, and the author has found that the mass of migratory birds arrive and again depart on certain critical days in October in vast numbers. All the results arrived at are plotted down on a map which accompanies the article.

Tschusi on Palæarctic Birds.

[Ueber palæarktische Formen, von Viktor, Ritter von Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen. Orn. Jahrb. xxiii. 1912, pp. 216-220.

Massenaufreten der Wacholderdrossel (*Turdus pilaris* L.) im Oberösterreich. *Id.*, Ornith. Monatschrift, xxxvii. 1912, pp. 154-155.

Zur Geschichte der Ornithologie in Steiermark. *Id.*, Mitt. Naturv. Ver. für Steiermark, xlviii. 1912, pp. 361-375.]

The author in the first paper describes four new subspecies of Palæarctic birds, viz., *Riparia riparia fusco-collaris* from southern Dalmatia, *Locustella fluviatilis obscura* from Bosnia, *Loxia curvirostra corsicana* and *Coturnix coturnix corsicana* from Corsica.

The second note deals with a sudden eruption of Fieldfares and Redwings in Upper Austria in November, perhaps attracted by the ripe service berries. The third contains some account of the Ornithologists of Styria and of their work.

Uchida on the Birds of Formosa.

[A Hand-list of Formosan Birds. By Seinosuke Uchida, Ornithologist in the Bureau of Agriculture, Tokyo. Ann. Zool. Japon. vii. 1912, pp. 137-214.]

This is a useful list, compiled by the Ornithologist of the Bureau of Agriculture of Japan, from previous authorities, and from the study of the collections at Tokyo. It enumerates 290 species, and gives short notes on each of them. Since the last important work on the birds of Formosa was published by Messrs. Ogilvie-Grant and La Touche in this Journal ('Ibis,' 1907, p. 151 and p. 254), some remarkable additions have been made, among which the most important are the species lately described and figured by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant in this Journal (see 'Ibis,'

1912, p. 642). But we have little doubt that as the opening of Formosa by the Japanese goes on, further discoveries will be made. In the present list twenty-one additional species, not hitherto recorded from the island, are noted, bringing the total number to 290.

'Ardea,' a new Ornithological Journal.

[*Ardea*. Tijdschrift der Nederlandsche Ornithologische Vereeniging. Vol. i. Parts 1 & 2. Leiden, 1912.]

We have been favoured with copies of the first two parts of a new ornithological journal, called by the not inappropriate name of '*Ardea*,' and published by Brill of Leyden. It is the organ of the Netherlands Ornithological Union, and is under the editorship of Dr. de Beaufort, Mr. Van Pelt Lechner, and Dr. Van Oort. The language used is what we commonly and perversely in England call "Dutch," but is easily understood by those who can read German and English.

We need hardly say that we look upon the establishment of this journal with much satisfaction, as likely to extend the knowledge of our special subject, and we wish it every sort of success. Most of the articles in the present numbers deal with questions of local interest.

Austral Avian Record.

[*The Austral Avian Record*. A scientific journal devoted primarily to the study of the Australian Avifauna. Vol. i. nos. 1-5, 1912.]

This new ornithological journal has been recently issued in connexion with the Austral Avian Museum, Watford, Herts, by Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, who is not only editor but also the writer of the greater part of the contents of these five numbers, although it is not until the third number is reached that he claims the authorship of the matter in the first two.

The first number contains a review of the Australian Cuckoos, chiefly from a nomenclatural point of view, and the dates of issue of Lear's 'Parrots' and S. Müller's '*Verhandl.*

Nat. Gesch. Land- en Volkenkunde.' The other numbers are chiefly occupied with additions and corrections to the author's 'Reference List to the Birds of Australia' (Nov. Zool. xviii. 1912, p. 171), and in these articles he adds several hundred more additional subspecies to the Australian avifauna.

We have already offered some critical remarks on Mr. Mathews' methods in systematic ornithology, and it may perhaps be mere iteration to repeat that we do not approve of them. The subspecies described may be quite worthy of subspecific differentiation, but what we maintain is, that in describing them some sort of evidence of this should be brought forward.

On page 34 of the present number a new Osprey is described as *Pandion haliaëtus melvillensis*; it is said to differ from *P. h. cristatus* in its whiter head and smaller size. This is all the information given—no measurements either of the typical or the new subspecies, nothing as to the number of specimens examined or compared, and, in fact, it would be quite impossible for any worker to confirm or reject Mr. Mathews' new subspecies without access to his type. This appears to us very hard on the Australian worker. In the last number of the 'Record' forty-seven new generic names are proposed for Australian birds. Our remarks on the subspecies apply almost equally to these generic names; the characters are in nearly all cases merely comparative, and in our opinion of no great value for generic differentiation. It appears to us that it would have been far better to have waited until it was possible to give the limits of the genera, and to indicate real diagnostic characters common to each species included therein.

Bird Notes.

[Bird Notes: the Journal of the Foreign Bird Club, vol. iii. nos. 9-12, Sept.-Dec. 1912.]

Most of the articles in 'Bird Notes' are directly concerned with aviculture, and are accounts of the experiences of the authors in breeding or rearing birds in captivity, but

we notice an interesting article by Mr. E. Hopkinson, spread over all four numbers, on the 'Birds of the Gambia,' where the writer has been officially employed for a good many years. There is also a short article on the breeding of the Striated Coly in captivity, by Mr. A. C. Young, who believes that this is the first time in which it has been successfully attempted. The November number contains a frontispiece, a handsome coloured plate of *Urocissa occipitalis*, drawn from a living example in the Zoological Gardens by Mr. Goodchild.

Messenger Ornithologique.

[*Messenger Ornithologique.* Troisième année 1912, nos. 2-4, Moscow.]

This Russian Ornithological Journal, which has only been recently established, is under the editorship of Mr. G. J. Poliakov and appears four times a year. As the articles are entirely written in Russian, it is difficult to say much about the contents, but the titles of the various articles are translated, which enables one to see that most of the papers deal with Palæartic birds. There is a long article on the "Ornithology of Turkestan," by Mr. N. A. Sarudny, in which new subspecies of *Urinator* and *Cerchneis* are described, and the same author collaborates with Mr. Bikevitsch in a discussion of the races of *Parus bokharensis*. Prof. Suschkin discusses some new facts in regard to the geographical distribution of birds in the Altai Mountains, and finally the editor, Mr. Poliakov, writes a long account, separately paged, of his visits to the lakes Saissan-nor and Marka-kul in western Siberia; this last is illustrated by a number of photographs of the country traversed. No student of Palæartic birds can neglect to refer to this Journal.

Revue Française d'Ornithologie.

[*Revue Française d'Ornithologie, Scientifique et Pratique.* Two vols. Paris, 1910-1912.]

The establishment of a new Ornithological Journal in

France ought not to remain unnoticed in 'The Ibis,' and the first two volumes of it are now complete. They are edited by MM. L. Denise and A. Ménégaux. Among the more important papers are an essay on the Birds of Cuba and an article on a collection from Bolivia by M. Ménégaux, and a complete list of the Humming-birds of Ecuador by M. E. Simon. The last-named paper records the existence of 152 species of Trochilidae in Ecuador, among which is one considered as new and described as *Prasites vitticeps*, while *Aphantochroa hyposticta* of Gould is made the type of a new genus (*Taphrospilus*).

Scottish Naturalist.

[The Scottish Naturalist, Sept.-Dec. 1912.]

The four numbers of the Scottish Naturalist do not contain any articles of very special ornithological interest. Mr. Eagle Clarke gives an account of a very remarkable wild-killed hybrid, whose parents seem to have been a Wild Duck and an Eider. It was shot, on the island of Auskerry in the Orkney group, by Mr. Laidlaw, and is illustrated by a photograph. In the October number Mr. R. Somerville gives some account of the first occurrence of the Little Owl (*Athene noctua*) in Scotland, where it was shot at East Grange in Fifeshire in November 1910. The bird is not a native of Great Britain, and may not improbably have been introduced. Mr. Landsborough Thomson continues his report on the Aberdeen bird-migration enquiry, giving a detailed list of all the ringed birds which have been recaptured and recorded.

Other Ornithological Publications received.

ARRIGONI DEGLI ODDI, E. Note sopra una raccolta di Uccelli dell' Arcipelago Toscano. Parts i. & ii. (Rivista Ital. Orn. 1911-12.)

DABBENE, R. Contribución á la Ornitología del Paraguay. (Anales Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. Buenos Aires, xxiii. 1912.)

- FLOWER, S. S. Zoological Gardens of the World. (Reference List, Giza, Egypt, Jan. 1913.)
- GRINNELL, J. The functions of the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature. (Auk, xix. 1912.)
- GRINNELL, J. The outlook for conserving the Band-tailed Pigeon as a game-bird in California. (Condor, xv. 1913.)
- GRINNELL, J. A systematic list of the Birds of California. (Cooper Ornithological Club, 1912.)
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